



WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO BOX 283, WASHINGTON DEPOT, CT 06794

To: Energy and Technology Committee

Re: H.B. No. 5409, AN ACT CONCERNING HYDRAULIC FRACKING WASTE

Testimony submitted on March 4, 2014 by Carlos M. Canal, Jr., Washington CT, as President of and on behalf of the Washington Environmental Council, Inc. and its members for introduction at the hearing on H.B. No 5409 to be held on March 4, 2014.

The Washington Environmental Council was founded in 1971, when the environmental movement was just beginning in this country. For over 40 years, we have served our mission to be an advocate and provide leadership in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the Town of Washington and the surrounding region. This includes monitoring important environmental issues affecting our area and acting to stop degradation of the environment before it occurs.

I wish to express our conditional support for H.B. No. 5409, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracking Waste in that it will (1) define hydraulic fracturing waste, (2) regard hydraulic fracturing waste traveling in the state as hazardous waste, and (3) require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to conduct a comprehensive assessment of hydraulic fracturing waste.

Once the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection completes its assessment of hydraulic fracturing waste and all of its pernicious and potential hazards to the health and welfare of the State's ecosystem, its inhabitants, its fauna and flora, its rivers, streams and lakes and all of its rich natural resources are known, then we feel that the best solution would be to ban and prohibit the storage, disposal and transportation of fracking waste in Connecticut such as contemplated in SB 237 which we strongly support.

We commend for your consideration the May 2012 report by the Natural Resources Defense Council entitled, "In Fracking's Wake: New Rules are Needed to Protect Our Health and Environment from Contaminated Wastewater" states that:

In examining a number of different fracking wastewater disposal methods that are being used in the Marcellus Shale region, the report finds that although all are problematic, with better regulation some could be preferable while others should not be allowed at all. NRDC opposes expanded fracking without effective safeguards. States such as New York that are considering fracking should not move forward until the available wastewater disposal options are fully evaluated and safeguards are in place to address the risks and impacts identified in this report. Where fracking is already taking place, the federal government and states must move forward swiftly to adopt the policy recommendations in this report to better protect people and the environment.

The frightening thought put forth by this report is that all the fracking wastewater disposal methods being used in the Marcellus Shale region are problematic. While some methods may be preferable others should not be allowed at all. The preferable methods, however, are still insufficient unless very strict, effective and costly safeguards are put in place by way of comprehensive regulations and a pro-active oversight and a very strict enforcement process.

It does not appear to us that the limited economic benefits that would accrue to our State if it became the hydraulic fracking waste dumping ground for the Marcellus Shale region outweigh the great risks that are present, even with the strictest regulation and extensive and costly oversight being put in place, should the toxic and radioactive fracking waste contaminate any aspect of our ecosystem such as our aquifers or waterways. What a calamity this would be for our citizens!!!

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Carlos Canal, President
On Behalf of the Board of Directors

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